

Marika E. Sitz

Associate

Services: Environmental and Natural Resources,
Water

Industries: Agriculture, Local Governments and
Special Districts



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OVERVIEW

Born and raised in Eastern Oregon, Marika became aware of the importance of water at a young age while helping relatives raise and lower headgates on their ranch. Her interest in water and natural resource management continued during her time at Stanford University, where she focused a large portion of her studies on food and agriculture systems. Marika recognizes that water is a critical resource for people and the environment, especially in the American West, and she has dedicated her education, advocacy efforts, and practice to the world of western water law.

Water impacts people every day, but water law can be complex and overwhelming. Marika helps clients tackle all manner of water rights issues, navigate the Oregon water rights system, and understand water-related environmental concerns at the state and federal levels. She understands the importance of collaboration and uses her experience with Oregon water and agriculture issues to strategically approach problems and identify solutions.

After graduating from college, Marika remained in the Bay Area where she worked as a Program Associate at Stanford University's Bill Lane Center for the American West. During her time at the Bill Lane Center, she had the opportunity to interact with scholars and researchers who were working on some of the West's most notorious water issues through a program called "Water in the West." After one year at the Bill Lane Center, she accepted an opportunity to return to her hometown of Pendleton, Oregon, and take the helm of the Oregon Water Coalition. In her role as coordinator, Marika gained a firsthand view of real-world, real-time water and agriculture issues. She worked with Water Coalition members and community members to expand the footprint of water education events. Once she had the lay of land and water outside of a courtroom and a classroom, Marika decided to attend law school to further her impact in the world of water law.

Her interest in the natural world extends beyond the office. She enjoys spending her free time backpacking, hiking, and rafting around the Pacific Northwest, particularly around her home region of Eastern Oregon.

Education

- J.D., University of Oregon School of Law, 2021
- B.A., Human Biology, concentration in Food and Agriculture Systems, Stanford University, 2015

Membership and Activities

- Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition, Board of Directors (2017-Present)
- Oregon Water Resources Congress (2021-Present)
- Oregon State Bar Environmental and Natural Resources Section Executive Committee (2022-Present)